

WHAT HAPPENED DURING PENTECOST?

Acts 2:1-13

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: The events of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2 claims the attention of the Church for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is described. The miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit were only temporary signs, given for specific purposes, it is also important to remember that what happened that day still applies to the Church today. What the Holy Spirit was then, He is still the same today. He changes not. Whatever He did for the Church of God at Pentecost, He is able to do for the Church today. The Holy Spirit still works His divine works among the Church today.

I. JUST WHAT WAS PENTECOST?

1. It was one of three great feasts given by the commandment of God. (*Leviticus 23:4-21*)
 - Since it was required by God that every male Israelite attend these feasts every year.
2. There was the Feast of Passover. (*Leviticus 23:4-8*)
 - This feast originated when God had His people sacrifice a lamb and put the blood of the lamb on the door of every house of Israel.
 - When judgment fell, God passed over every house where the blood was on the door.
 - The passover lamb represented Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, sacrificed for sinners and by whose blood the believer is saved.
 - Jesus kept the passover with His disciples just before He was crucified.
3. There was the Feast of First Fruits. (*Leviticus 23:9-11*)
 - On the first day of the week after the Sabbath (Sunday), Israel brought a handful of the first fruits of their harvest and waved it before the Lord, signifying that every product of the soil and the result of their labor and toil is from God.
 - It was on this day that Jesus rose from the grave and became the "first-fruits" of the resurrection.
4. There was the Feast of Pentecost. (*Leviticus 23:15-21*)
 - It was held seven (7) weeks after the Passover.
 - At this time the Jews renewed their vows and dedicated themselves anew to the Lord God.
 - It was on this day that the Holy Spirit was given as the Lord Jesus had promised.

II. WHEN DID THE HOLY SPIRIT COME UPON THE APOSTLES?

1. The Holy Spirit came at the appointed time, "*when the day of Pentecost was fully come..*"
 - Once Jesus had ascended back to heaven and had been exalted, the Holy Spirit was given.
2. The Disciples were gathered for worship in the appointed place and were all with one accord in prayer and expectation, waiting for the promise of the Spirit.

III. WHAT WERE THE SYMBOLS OF THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. There was the wind, a symbol of deity, therefore a proper emblem of the Spirit. (*Acts 2:2-3*)
 - Both the Hebrew and Greek word for wind and the Spirit are the same.

- Wind is frequently used to represent the power and presence of God.
- The rushing, mighty wind symbolizes the irresistible power of grace which comes by the Spirit.
- Nobody controls the wind nor does anybody control God.

2. There was fire which is also an emblem of divinity.
 - God appeared to Abraham as a burning lamp.
 - God appeared to Moses in the burning bush.
 - God's presence to Israel in the wilderness was a pillar of fire.
 - God showed His presence to Elijah with a devouring fire.
 - Isaiah's lips were cleansed by a live coal of fire.
 - Like fire, the Spirit of God illuminates the people of God.
 - Like fire, the Spirit of God gives power to energize and invigorate the Church.

IV. THE IMMEDIATE EFFECTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PRESENCE (*Acts 2:4-11*)

1. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be controlled by Him.
 - Filled with His grace.
 - Filled with His comfort.
 - Filled with His influence.
2. They began to speak with other tongues, languages.
 - The gift of tongues was the ability to speak a language that had not been learned.
 - It was a temporary gift bestowed upon the Apostles thus identifying them as God's inspired messengers.
 - Since today the Church has the complete revelation of God in the Bible, there is not as much a need for supernatural gifts (miracles, tongues, etc.) to confirm God's revelation.
3. The Holy Spirit is the same today as then but does not manifest Himself in the same way, yet there is evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence and power in the Church.
 - He enables God's servants to preach with power.
 - He enables sinners who will, to hear, understand and believe the Gospel of Christ.
 - He makes the Gospel life to those who believe and death to those who reject it.

V. WHAT DID THE APOSTLES GO OUT AND PREACH ABOUT AFTER PENTECOST?

1. They all declared the wonderful works of God. (*Acts 2:11*)
 - The subject matter was Christ and Him crucified.
2. On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached about six (6) things:
 - Free Salvation through the Merits of Jesus Christ. (*v21*)
 - The Glorious Sovereignty of God. (*v23*)
 - The Desperate Wickedness and Depravity of Man. (*v23*)
 - The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus Christ. (*v23*)
 - The Exaltation and Glory of Jesus Christ. (*vv32-36*)
 - Repentance and the Remission of Sins by the Gift of God. (*vv38-40*)

CONCLUSION:

1. The Holy Spirit of Pentecost is with the Church of today.
2. Believers need to pray for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to be in the assemblies of God's Church today.
3. The message that was preached by the disciples right after Pentecost does not need changing.
4. May the Holy Spirit come again upon God's Church in the fulness and power as He came upon the gathered Apostles in that upper room on the Day of Pentecost.